

Media Advisory

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CAUCUSES UNITE TO FIGHT PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF OUTREACH AND ACADEMIC PREPARATION FUNDING

Governor's plan will affect students from low-income and educationally disadvantaged communities

Sacramento, CA-The California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, Latino Legislative Caucus and Legislative Black Caucus will announce the formation of a united front to lobby Governor Schwarzenegger against eliminating funding for K-12 Outreach and Academic Preparation Programs at the University of California and California State University.

Event: Tri Caucus Press Conference re: Higher Education Outreach Programs

Who: Hon. Wilma Chan, Co-Chair, Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus
Hon. Marco Antonio Firebaugh, Chair, Latino Legislative Caucus
Hon. Jerome Horton, Chair, Legislative Black Caucus
Hon. Carol Liu, Co-Chair, Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus
Student Representative
University Representative
NAACP Representative

When: Wednesday, January 7, 2004
10:00 am

Where: Governor's Press Conference Room 317
Sacramento, California

"Outreach programs 'level the playing field' by countering disparities in resources, such as access to college preparatory coursework, college counselors, qualified teachers, and most importantly they prepare students academically for college," said Assembly Member Wilma Chan.

"The great disparity that exists in educational achievement by socio-economic class, geographic location, and ethnicity in California's public educational system is no secret. It is shortsighted to target UC and CSU outreach programs that enable some of our most hardworking and brightest students to pursue a college education, said Assembly Member Marco Antonio Firebaugh.

"Participants in UC outreach programs now account for 30% of African American freshmen and 33% of Latino freshmen. This clearly demonstrates the success of these programs, eliminating them does not make sense," said Assembly Member Jerome Horton.

"The Governor's proposed elimination of these programs will be a major setback to the State's efforts to ensure equal opportunities for California's diverse population in accessing our renowned public higher education systems," said Assembly Member Carol Liu, Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee.

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